



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

AUG 9 1974

Jon D. Anderson  
Director  
Division of Inspection

MEMORANDUM REPORT

DIVISION OF BIOMEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH, HEADQUARTERS -  
REQUEST TO LOCATE MR. (21-2-354)

This investigation was predicated upon the request of Dr. James L. Liverman, Director, Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research, Headquarters, that an attempt be made to locate Mr. who was a black male, 52 years of age, when he became involved in a clinical testing program at Strong Memorial Hospital, 260 Crittenden Boulevard, Rochester, New York, in 1946; but was subsequently lost to followup.

RESULTS OF INQUIRY

Dr. James W. Bartlett, Medical Director, Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, 260 Crittenden Boulevard, Rochester, reviewed File No. 245885 for Mr. and advised that it contained the following information, in general:

Mr. was born on October 31, 1893, in Rochester (Monroe County), New York. He received a grammar school education in Rochester, but moved away as a young man. He was like a "rolling stone" thereafter, traveled a great deal, never married, and worked in several states, mostly as a cook. He was working for an insurance company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1944, when his girlfriend died and he became depressed as a result. He then went to New York, lost all of his money in the stock market, and later returned to live with his niece in Rochester. On March 24, 1946, after suffering a heart attack, he was admitted to the Rochester Municipal Hospital which was then located in Wing Y-3 of the Strong Memorial Hospital Building and serviced by the Strong Memorial staff; he was transferred to Wing E-3 of Strong Memorial Hospital for special studies on July 7, 1946, and was discharged on August 15, 1946,

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as arrangements had been made with his consent to have him cared for at the Monroe County Home and Infirmary, 435 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, because his niece did not want him at her house. About eight years before being admitted to this hospital, he was hospitalized for three months in a Veterans' Administration Hospital in Connecticut for rheumatic heart disease. He had been drinking some during the two months preceding his admission to Rochester Municipal Hospital, but was not an habitual drinker. At that time, he stated that his address was \_\_\_\_\_, Rochester, and that his niece was Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the same address. He was unemployed when in this hospital. The file did not contain a social security number for Mr.

Dr. Bartlett advised that the city of Rochester went out of the hospital business some time after 1946, and that Strong Memorial Hospital then took over the entire operation of Wing Y-3.

Dr. Bartlett advised that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ medical file also shows that a Strong Memorial Hospital social worker referred him to the Bureau of Veterans' Relief, as he was down-and-out financially at that time.

Examination of the 1974 Greater Rochester telephone directory, as published by the Rochester Telephone Corporation, \_\_\_\_\_ Rochester, disclosed that it contained the following listings under the name

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Rochester  
and

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_, Rochester

Mr. Richard J. Maher, Assistant Supervisor of Client Benefits, Monroe County Veterans' Service Agency, 111 Westfall Road, Rochester, advised that the records from the Bureau of Veterans' Relief were on file at his office for a while, but were destroyed some time in the 1950's. He stated that the only record he presently has on Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is a Bureau of Veterans' Relief index card, which shows that he applied for something on August 14, 1946, and that the file on him was closed on December 3, 1946. He said this card also shows that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was born on October 31, 1893; enlisted in the U. S. Army at Philadelphia on March 3, 1918; and was discharged on January 19, 1919, at Camp Dix, New Jersey. He added that this card further shows that Mr. Nelson held the rank of Private First Class in the 49th Company of the 153rd Depot Brigade, and that his Serial Number was

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Examination of a file on Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ as furnished by Mr. Leonard J. Hillard, Senior Service Officer, Monroe County Veterans' Service Agency, 55 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, disclosed that it contained the following information, in general:

A "Certificate in Lieu of a Lost or Destroyed Discharge Certificate" showed that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_ a Private First Class of the 49th Company, 153rd Depot Brigade, U. S. Army, was inducted on August 3, 1918,\* at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to serve for the emergency; that he was honorably discharged on January 19, 1919, by reason of demobilization; and that he gave his date and place of birth when inducted as October 31, 1893, in Rochester, New York.

A letter dated September 21, 1946, to Mr. George E. Hubbard, Superintendent, Veterans' Camp, Division of Veterans' Affairs, Executive Department, State of New York, Mt. McGregor, New York, from Mr. Graham H. Scott, New York State Veterans' Counselor, 168 Clinton Avenue South, Rochester, applying for admission of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ to this camp. Mr. Scott stated in this letter that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was then living in the Monroe County Home in Rochester and the following:

"Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was in the hospital suffering with a heart attack from the 24th of March to the 21st of this year.\*\* He has no family or any place to obtain convalescent care here in Rochester. He is ambulatory--he has made two visits to our office. I made inquiries as to his character and work habits and have been told by friends and acquaintances of his that he has always worked until this heart attack."

Mr. Anthony M. Ferrarese, State Veterans' Counselor, Division of Veterans' Affairs, State of New York, 55 South Fitzhugh, Rochester, advised that Mt. McGregor was a New York State rest home for veterans until it was closed 12 to 15 years ago. He stated that the records of this installation were destroyed some time thereafter, according to information furnished to him by the Division of Veterans' Affairs of the State of New York, Albany, New York; but he does not believe a typical veteran would have remained at Mt. McGregor for more than three months.

Mr. Donald S. Peoples, Clerk I, Birth and Death Records, Monroe County Health Department, 111 Westfall Road, Rochester, advised that they began setting up a central filing system of birth and

\* Varies from the previous date of March 3, 1918

\*\* Possibly meant September 21, 1946

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death records in Monroe County on July 1, 1968; and that they presently have all of the city of Rochester records and many of the records from the town sites within the county. He refused, however, to search the index records from 1946 to date, or to allow the writer to make such a search to determine if Mr. had died within the county, saying this was not permitted by the regulations; but he would be happy to perform this check if a specific date of death could be obtained for Mr. He added that they have no record of the birth of a in Rochester on October 31, 1893; although it was not unusual for births not to be reported in those days.

Mr. Joseph H. Sterzinger, Director, Office of Vital Statistics, State of New York, 84 Holland Avenue, Albany, New York, was requested telephonically on July 24, 1974, to make a search of his records from August 1945, to date, to determine if Mr. had died within the state, which he agreed to do. His secretary, a Mrs. Butler, advised during a subsequent telephone call in Mr. Sterzinger's absence, that this search had been performed and they were unable to locate a record of death for Mr.

Mr. Robert J. Vanloon, Veterans' Benefits Counselor, Veterans' Services Division, Veterans' Administration, Federal Office Building, 100 State Street, Rochester, advised that Mr. military service folder is located at the Federal Records Center in Philadelphia, and that the number of this folder is C-15-342-764.

At this point, and with the concurrence of Dr. Sidney Marks, Physician, Epidemiologist-Pathologist, Biomedical Programs, Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research, Headquarters, Dr. Bartlett was requested to contact Mrs. to obtain information regarding the whereabouts of Mr. without involving AEC in the request, which he had previously stated he would do. Dr. Bartlett later advised that he telephoned Mrs. during the evening of July 25, 1974. He stated that she did not express any curiosity about the call, but had a little difficulty remembering Mr. in the beginning. He said she then stated that she is Mr. niece; that she had lost track of him; but later heard from an aunt (now deceased) that he had died in Philadelphia in the 1950's, in which place he is apparently buried. He added he believes this was the extent of the information Mrs. has about the present location of Mr.

Mr. Calvin C. Edmonds, Director, Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, State of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was requested by phone on July 26 to have a search made of his index records to determine if Mr. had died in the State of Pennsylvania and, if so, to furnish a certified copy of his certificate of death.

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He refused to do this, however, stating that he would not furnish the information at all without a letter from someone in authority in AEC requesting the information on AEC stationery; and that, even then, he would like to have a more specific time of death than the 1950's. He also stated that he would not allow anyone from AEC to review these records, saying there were many people who wanted to do this and he made no exceptions for the United States Government. He added that these records are confidential.

A letter was prepared to Mr. Edmonds, and in his absence, presented personally to Mr. Frank Taylor, Assistant Director, Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Welfare, State of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Taylor caused a search of the recorded deaths for the 1950's which disclosed a death certificate for \_\_\_\_\_ a certified copy of which is attached as Exhibit A.

Examination of this certificate disclosed that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was born on October 31, 1893, in Rochester, New York; that he succumbed at 9:50 a.m. on June 2, 1957, at \_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; that his usual place of residence was \_\_\_\_\_ in that city; that the immediate cause of death was Arteriosclerotic heart disease and that he also had a Carcinoma of the esophagus; that he is buried in the Beverly National Cemetery, located in Beverly/Burlington, New Jersey; that the informant was one \_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who apparently had no knowledge of any of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ relatives.

Mr. George Kendra, Contact Representative, Veterans' Benefits Office, Veterans' Administration, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, obtained the Veterans' Administration File C No. 15-342-764 and advised that it contained a letter dated January 1956 from Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ which included the social security number \_\_\_\_\_ that the letter was in Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ own handwriting; and that the file also contained a death certificate identical to that attached to this report.

Wilson O. Edmonds  
Resident Investigator, OR

Enclosure:  
Exhibit A

Period of Inquiry  
July 23 - 31, 1974  
intermittently

Distribution:  
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Research

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